

# WASHINGTON CROP WEATHER

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Washington Agricultural Statistics Service

## Crop and Weather Information for the Week Ending April 21, 2002

### WEEK IN BRIEF:

**Tulip Fields were in Full Bloom**  
**Spring Field Crop were Beginning to Emerge**

### FIELD CROPS

Western Washington experienced heavy showers early in the week which prohibited fieldwork until later in the week. Christmas tree growers were busy spraying insecticides for infestation of the Silver Spotted Tiger Moth and fertilizing. Pea planting began in Skagit County. Cooperative weather in eastern Washington allowed fieldwork to proceed. Several counties reported winter wheat in good condition and spring crops beginning to emerge. Grant County reported sweet corn seeding was underway with radish seed and onion planting finishing up.

### LIVESTOCK

Eastern Washington ranchers were turning cattle out on range pastures. Dairy producers continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Wool harvest continued in Grant County. Cattle producers in the northeastern part of the state were feeding cattle longer because of cold spring conditions. Range and pasture conditions were 10% poor, 50% fair and 40% good.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Benton County reported necessary frost protection measurements for tree fruit, due to cool temperatures. Skagit County was spraying for apple scab as a result of expected rains. Tulip fields were in full bloom and dahlia growers were shipping bulbs. Cool, wet weather caused several vegetables farmers to run about two weeks behind in the South Puget Sound area. Asparagus harvesting continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork	
This Week	Last Week
5.5	4.3

Soil Moisture and Supply				
Soil Type	% Acreage			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	7	85	8
Subsoil	0	10	87	3
Irrigation Water	0	0	100	0
Hay and	5	15	80	0
VS=Very Short, SH=Short, AD=Adequate,				

Crop Progress				
Crop/Activity	% Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2001	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	70	58	64	70
Spring Wheat Emerged	35	16	24	37
Barley Planted	50	41	48	57
Barley Emerged	18	5	18	24
Potatoes Planted	40	28	46	52
Potatoes Emerged	18	6	18	19
Corn Planted	16	9	12	18
Dry Peas Planted	24	8	30	26
Dry Edible Beans	7	5	0	0
Proc. Green Peas	25	15	58	25

Crop Condition *					
Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat	1	2	38	50	9
Winter Wheat	0	0	0	95	5
Spring Wheat	0	0	70	30	0
Spring Wheat	0	0	0	95	5
Barley Dryland	0	0	70	30	0
Barley Irrigated	0	0	0	90	10
VP=Very Poor, P=Poor, F=Fair, G=Good,					

\* Crop conditions are a measure of the growing

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## COUNTY COMMENTS

### WESTERN

**Grays Harbor:** Copious amounts of precipitation early in the week, continued to keep soils super-saturated. Ag producers were complaining that weather conditions continued to delay spring plowing. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing fields and mowing grass cover crops between rows. Greenhouse tomato growers reported rapid plant growth in forage fields. Dairymen continued applying liquid manure to forage fields and getting equipment ready for green chopping. Wholesale ornamental nurserymen reported excellent demand for landscape plants.

**Pierce/South King:** The weather conditions improved and producers were able to get onto their fields. Many producers reported that vegetable planting was two weeks behind normal in the South Puget Sound area. There were no reports of any crop losses due to the weather.

**Skagit:** A few days of dry weather allowed for some fieldwork, but many fields were still too wet for equipment. Tulip fields were at peak bloom with crowds of tourists filling valley roads to view them.

Impending rains prompted the third cover sprays for apple scab. Dahlia growers began shipping bulbs to buyers. Pea planting began. Typically, planting begins around the first part of April.

**Thurston:** Very heavy rainfall early in the week prevented almost all field activity. Fields quickly became super-saturated with surface water ponds developing. Agricultural producers expressed concern that spring plowing was getting further and further behind. Christmas tree growers continued to report infestations of Silver Spotted Tiger Moths. Turfgrass growers spent time between rain storms trying to keep rapidly growing turf mowed. Dairymen continued applying liquid manure to forage fields. Warm weather and drying conditions late in the week were welcomed by retail nurserymen with large inventories of spring bedding plants.

**Whatcom:** The weather temperature was warmer. Raspberry vines were turning green. Fieldwork was continuing.

### CENTRAL

**Benton:** Frost protection for tree fruit has been necessary in cool areas. Early irrigation and weed control were major activities for fruit producers. Hop tying and asparagus harvest were other activities.

**Franklin:** Asparagus harvest continued. Potato planting continued, as did planting of carrots, sweet corn, wheat and barley.

**Grant:** Sweet corn planting was about 20% complete. Radish seed and onion planting neared completion. Wool harvest was nearly 65% complete. Cattle were being turned onto rangeland.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** Both counties have been experiencing very windy conditions and little precipitation. Cattle were on feed longer, due to the cold spring weather. Spring pastures were later than normal. There were no reports of major fruit damage due to the frost or freezing conditions.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures were generally cooler, ranging from 9 degrees below normal to 5 degrees above normal, with a low temperature of 26 degrees. There was a trace amount of precipitation on two days. There were no crop losses reported due to weather conditions.

## EASTERN

**Asotin/Garfield:** Spring planting proceeded rapidly. Winter wheat remained in good condition. Pasture conditions improved due to warmer temperatures, but was not recovered fully from last year's drought and cold temperatures in March.

**Whitman:** Weather conditions remained cooperative for continuing spring seeding operations. Moisture remained adequate, but temperatures remained cool. Winter wheat looks excellent and spring crops were beginning to emerge. Weed spraying for winter

wheat began.

**Whitman (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Fieldwork was delayed early in the week due to significant rainfall the previous week. Crop conditions generally looked good, although some fields of winter wheat, that were seeded early into dry conditions last fall were turning out to be thinner stands than originally thought.

## WEEKLY WEATHER STATISTICS

April 22, 2002

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	34	58	46	-4	0	-7	0	0	0.22	-0.41	3	29.08	0.48	102	127
Everett	38	56	46	-3	0	-10	0	0	0.30	-0.33	3	27.69	-0.93	97	133
Hoquiam	33	52	46	-4	0	-14	0	0	1.14	0.13	3	59.87	1.16	102	145
Kelso	37	57	48	-2	0	-14	0	0	0.43	-0.34	4	37.55	-1.01	97	128
Olympia	32	60	44	-4	0	-7	0	0	0.28	-0.46	3	54.40	10.47	124	137
Seattle-Tacoma	39	57	46	-4	0	-13	0	0	0.22	-0.30	4	34.18	2.69	109	122
Shelton	34	58	45	-5	0	-14	0	0	0.74	-0.16	3	66.41	8.83	115	137
Tacoma	34	57	45	-5	0	-13	0	0	0.11	-0.52	3	26.37	-7.23	78	103
Vancouver	38	58	49	-1	2	-12	0	0	0.27	-0.36	3	33.48	-1.06	97	126
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	30	66	47	-2	6	-4	0	0	0.15	0.01	2	5.87	-1.18	83	67
Omak	28	70	48	2	4	-3	0	0	0.00	-0.28	0	7.78	-2.28	77	59
Stampede Pass	25	43	32	-3	0	0	0	0	0.52	-0.59	2	67.58	-2.33	97	129
Wenatchee	31	68	51	-1	20	-4	0	0	0.04	-0.10	1	4.22	-2.14	66	49
Yakima AP	25	70	48	-2	11	-8	0	0	0.08	-0.05	1	4.93	-1.41	78	49
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	29	70	48	2	5	-3	0	0	0.04	-0.31	1	12.21	-3.11	80	67
Deer Park	30	60	44	-3	3	-4	0	0	0.14	-0.19	3	18.41	4.78	135	99
Spokane AP	29	60	44	-3	1	-6	0	0	0.03	-0.23	2	11.03	-1.04	91	89
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	28	69	49	-3	15	-9	0	0	0.00	-0.07	0	4.36	-1.19	79	49
Moses Lake	29	69	48	-5	7	-17	0	0	0.13	0.06	1	4.11	-1.44	74	52
Quincy	28	69	50	-2	18	-4	0	0	0.00	-0.11	0	5.20	-0.85	86	49
Ritzville	28	63	43	-5	0	-9	0	0	0.00	-0.17	0	8.48	-0.17	98	63
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	32	69	50	-6	12	-29	0	-7	0.05	-0.02	2	4.50	-0.70	87	41
Pasco	30	70	50	-5	8	-29	0	-7	0.04	-0.03	1	3.99	-1.83	69	43
Pullman	28	58	42	-4	0	-7	0	0	0.12	-0.23	4	14.85	-1.16	93	90
Walla Walla AP	34	66	48	-5	9	-20	0	-1	0.07	-0.32	2	11.57	-3.51	77	84
Whitman Mission	33	67	48	-4	6	-16	0	-4	0.06	-0.22	1	9.63	-0.72	93	75
<b>WESTERN IDAHO PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A'AP	30	63	45	-4	5	-3	0	0	0.06	-0.29	3	15.35	-3.83	80	96
Lewiston ID	33	62	47	-5	4	-21	0	-6	0.16	-0.12	5	7.69	-0.37	95	77

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2001

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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